

Microsoft Settlement

January 23, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

As a US citizen, I would like to express my views on the proposed Final Judgement in the United States vs. Microsoft Settlement.

I have been in the software development field for 7 years. I have felt for many years that Microsoft has monopolistic market positions and tendencies, and has continued these practices even through the current anti-trust investigations. I believe that these practices have hindered innovation and hurt consumers and businesses.

In general, I think that the proposed Final Judgement is too soft on Microsoft and will not resolve the anti-trust issues at all. In particular:

- * Section 3.A.2 of the proposed Final Judgement appears to prevent Microsoft from strong-arming OEMs that ship dual-boot machines, but offers no protection for OEMs shipping a single-boot machines that do not boot to Microsoft Windows.

- * Definition K of the proposed Final Judgement covers Microsoft's Java Virtual Machine, but does not affect Microsoft's .NET strategy. .NET, and the C# language specifically, appear to be designed to woo existing Java programmers with a minimum of new training. While C# is a documented standard, Microsoft's standard method of operation is to extend the standard with Microsoft-only features which eliminate any opportunity for inter-operability. If C# becomes as widely accepted as C++ or Java, I fully expect that there will quickly be divergent "Microsoft C#" and "Standard C#" implementations.

- * There appears to be no solution to the issue of Microsoft proprietary file formats in the proposed Final Judgement. This is huge hindrance, as more and more email attachments are being sent as Microsoft Word documents, etc. File formats were covered in the "Applications Barrier to Entry" section of the "Findings of Fact".

These are just three of the issues that I was immediately drawn to in the proposed Final Judgement. I am also very concerned with Microsoft's continuing efforts to extend their stranglehold on US consumers and businesses including:

- * New Microsoft XP licensing schemes which may raise costs for US consumers and businesses. As part of the XP licensing, consumers will not be allowed to load multiple copies of XP on their own hardware. And licensing costs may increase for 59% of businesses (see article in CIO magazine, "Software Licensing Debate", <http://www2.cio.com/research/surveyreport.cfm?id=50>)

- * Microsoft's forays into home entertainment (UltimateTV, XBox)

- * Microsoft's new effort to be at the center of the Internet (.NET and Passport)

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Thank you for reviewing my opinions. I hope that any Final Judgement in the United States vs. Microsoft trial will be carefully considered.

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